

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are presented for consideration, with claim 1 being independent.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation that claims 2-7 were indicated as containing patentable subject matter and would be allowed if placed in independent form. In response to this indication, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 2, which has been canceled. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3-10 are now allowable.

Claims 1, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kock et al. '504. In addition, claims 1, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Xie '985.

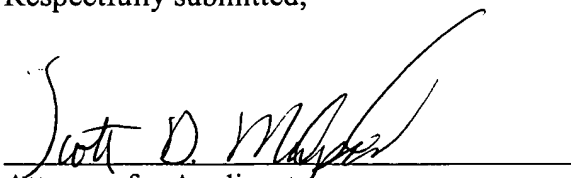
Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2, as discussed above. These rejections are therefore deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent claims 3-10 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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